Anthropology Inside Out

Fieldworkers Taking Notes

Edited by Astrid Oberborbeck Andersen, Anne Line Dalsgård, Mette Lind Kusk, Maria Nielsen, Cecilie Rubow and Mikkel Rytter.
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Colour Paperback, ISBN 978-1-912385-21-8,
Price: £25.00 **Offer Price: £18**

Fieldworkers’ notebooks are full of sensations and observations in which the subjectivity of the ethnographer seeps through. Not really science. Much closer to life. Yet in classical anthropology they are invisible to the reader. In this book the focus is reversed, turning *Anthropology Inside Out* as it explores the vibrant backstage life of field notes. What happens when we put them centre stage?

Aimed at both curious novice and experienced practitioner, the chapters read as a catalogue of experimental practices teetering on the edge of the tradition: intuitively observational drawings; notes pervaded with paranoia; collective note-taking; crisis ridden personal confessions; layers of notes in photographs and archives; old flip-flops that trigger memories in mind and body. This exploration of what field notes are, can do and could be, concludes with a constellation of shimmering notes on notes from Michael Taussig, a meta-commentary on anthropologists’ fetishistic relationship with the most personal of professional tools.

*This extremely timely and original book starts a long overdue discussion within anthropology. The authors are to be commended for filling a gap in the methodology literature, which was so glaring until now as to be invisible to most of us.*

**Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo**

The book is steeped in love for the materiality of the process of learning about life – inner life as well as the life out there. The chapters open up for reflections on the artistic and scientific aspects of the anthropological endeavour and become experimental in their expansion of the genre of anthropological work and thinking.

**Professor Inger Sjørslev, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen**
Twilight Zone Anthropology
Voices from Poland
The RAI Country Series Vol. 2
Edited by Michal Buchowski
Hbk, isbn 978-1-912385-06-5, £60

Twilight Zone Anthropology provides an engaging and multifaceted picture of anthropology in Poland, Bronislaw Malinowski’s motherland, with a comprehensive introduction describing the discipline’s history, and thematic contributions detailing diverse and innovative contemporary practices that foreshadow rich possibilities for its future. It makes the compelling argument that Polish anthropology should be seen to have developed within a twilight zone of contact between ‘imperial’ discourses of a French-Anglo-US disciplinary hegemony and ‘imperial’ discourses of a French-Anglo-US disciplinary hegemony and an Eastern European intellectual and political heritage.

It provides a palpably vibrant sampling of a ‘cosmopolitan Polish national anthropology’, with discussions of a wide-range of disciplinary issues, such as gender, memory, engagement, activism, health and politics. This work represents a significant step forward in the ongoing redefinition of global hierarchies of knowledge and the creation of a pluriversal anthropology.

African Americans & American Africans
Migration, History, Race and Identities
Dmitri M. Bondarenko
Hbk, isbn 978-1-912385-03-3, £55

In America today, two communities with sub-Saharan African genetic origins exist side by side, though they have differing histories and positions within society. This book explores the relationship between African Americans, descendants of those Africans brought to America as slaves, and migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, who have come to the United States of America voluntarily, mainly since the 1990s. Members of these groups have both a great deal in common and much that separates them, largely hidden in their assumptions about, and attitudes towards, each other.

‘This work, which is filled with observational precision and anthropological insight, will spark much debate about the complex nature of contemporary social relations in the United States. In these troubled times, African Americans & American Africans is a most welcome addition to the anthropological record.

Paul Stoller, Professor of Anthropology, West Chester University

Anthropology in Norway
Directions, Locations, Relations
Edited by Synnove K.N. Rendisens & Edvard Hviding
The RAI Country Series

Music, Dance, Anthropology
Edited by Stephen Cotrell

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Encounters with current trajectories of scholarship from Austria
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A Guide in Collaborative Ethnographic Filmmaking
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The History And Theory Of Sacred Objects
Karl-Heinz Kohl

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Edited by Robert Layton

What People Do with Images
Aesthetics, Politics, and the Production of Iranian Visual Culture in Transnational Circuits
Maziar Loftian

The Last White Canoe of the Lau of Malaita, Solomon Islands
Pierre Maranda, James Tuita Dede, Ben Burt

Social Anthropologies of the Welsh
Past and Present
Edited by W. John Morgan and Fiona Bowie
The RAI Country Series

The Culture of Invention in the Americas
Anthropological Experiments with Roy Wagner
Edited by Pedro Pitarch & José Antonio Kelly
Hbk, isbn 978-1-912385-02-7, £60.00

We don’t have to imagine what Wagner might have made of this inspired collection: his concluding commentary on each of these extraordinary chapters is in effect a collection in itself. The sparks they together ignite make this an editorial and publishing triumph.

Marilyn Strathern, University of Cambridge
This pioneering book shows how local actors use IP rather than the other way around. A must-read for anyone interested in IP.

Isabel Hofmeyr, University of the Witwatersrand

Copyright Africa
How Intellectual Property, Media & Markets Transform Immaterial Cultural Goods
Edited by Ute Röschenthaler & Mamadou Diawara

African is known for its multi-faceted immaterial culture, its highly original music, oral texts, artistic performances and sport. These cultural expressions have become increasingly regulated by intellectual property (IP) rights, as orally transmitted stories are written down, traditional songs broadcast and sporting activities once part of village life become national media events. This volume uncovers these layers of anthropological knowledge-making.

The contributors reconstruct the ways they entered the worlds of their research subjects, focusing on pre-textual and deeply phenomenological processes of perceiving, noting, listening and sensing. This book commences the project of developing a new language for anthropological works, one stemming from recurring acts of participation, and rooted primarily in the pre-textual worlds of the tacit and intense experiences that exceed the limitations of conventional textual accounts.

...encourage us to see how participatory method, social attentiveness, and new forms of ethnographic writing can enhance our understanding of the affective, intersubjective, and conceptual complexities of life as lived.

Michael Jackson, Distinguished Professor of World Religions, Harvard University

A selection from our list
Repositioning Pacific Arts
Anne E. Allen & Deborah B. Waite

Tikopia Collected
Elizabeth Bonshek

Mikulad
Pat Caplan

Anthropology at the Crossroads
Ed. Sophie Chevalier
Hbk, ISBN 978-1-907774-49-2, £47.50

Beyond Tradition, Beyond Invention
Diana Espirito Santo & Anastasios Panagiotopoulos
Hbk, ISBN 978-1-907774-37-9, £60

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Nick Stanley

Commons and Borderlands
Marilyn Strathern

Rematerializing Colour
Ed. Diana Young

Indigenous Modernities in South America
Edited by Ernst Halbmayr
Hbk, ISBN 978-1-912385-01-0, £60

Indigenous peoples have been cast as representing modernity's fading premodern Other. This volume starts from the opposite assumption, that contemporary indigenous peoples are specifically modern societies, shaped by their specific ways of dealing with, making use of and transforming the contexts imposed by nation-states, colonial systems and globalization. Indigenous groups are modern in multiple, complex and alternative ways. The contributions show that this holds true for current forms of shamanism and indigenous Christian churches, new meanings of traditional clothing, as well as indigenous cosmologies that confront western concepts, technology and welfare programmes.

‘Indigenous Modernities in South America makes a major contribution to South American studies and is a ‘must read’ by every ethnographer, historian, ethnohistorian, and analyst of South American peoples. It challenges the very basis of so-called ‘modernization theory’ and opens new doors to the understanding of indigenous agency and indigenous powers.

Norman E. Whitten, Jr University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Of Hairy Kings and Saintly Slaves
An Ethiopian Travelogue
Manuel Joao Ramos

Manuel Joao Ramos’s rapidly caught impressions convey the rough edges of the intensely lived experiences that are fundamental to the desire to travel. For the travel sketch is more than a record or register of attendance (‘been there, seen that’); it holds invisibly within itself the remnant of a look, the hint of a memory and a trace of an osmosis of feelings between the sketcher and the person or objects sketched. Less intrusive than using a camera, drawing comprises a less imperialist, more benign way of researching: the sketchbook becomes a means of communication.

‘What do anthropologists do? They sketch! This, at least, is what Manuel Joao Ramos does in this captivating collection of traveller’s tales and indigenous legends, drawn from his excursions in Ethiopia. Sketchbook in hand, he draws as much as writes, not representing the people and the things he meets, but bringing them irresistibly to life. They explode like crackers from the pages of this book, erupting in a shower of evanescent memories. Why, Ramos asks us, has an anthropology obsessed with visual images forgotten how to draw? And how can drawing and writing be brought together again?’

Tim Ingold, University of Aberdeen